

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your leadership in securing the passage of your American Rescue Plan to provide essential relief to our communities reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to working with you on the next phase of the recovery by building the most comprehensive American Jobs and Families Plan package.

We are concerned with recent news reports indicating that prescription drug pricing reform will not be included in this package. As you move forward with this plan, we urge you to reconsider and include significant prescription drug reform measures to reduce the cost of prescription drugs in the United States and provide financial relief to millions of patients and taxpayers. Drug pricing reform also has strong bipartisan support across the country, and it will create hundreds of billions of dollars in savings that can be used to provide affordable healthcare coverage to more Americans.

For decades, pharmaceutical companies have made life-saving and life-extending drugs that have benefitted millions of Americans. But at the same time pharmaceutical companies have used their market power to invariably raise drug prices annually, well beyond the rate of inflation, leaving innovative drugs out of reach for many. These unrelenting price hikes have hammered consumers, taxpayers, and employers. It is both unsustainable and egregious, particularly because American taxpayers and government funding to the National Institutes of Health have helped fund the development of nearly every new pharmaceutical in the last decade.

Americans pay almost four times more for prescription drugs compared to other countries. Because of inaccessible prices, patients in the United States are suffering and forced to make impossible choices between paying bills and purchasing life-saving medications. In 2020, nearly 40 percent of Americans reported difficulty in affording their medications, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the situation. High drug prices also disproportionately impact communities of color, as economic and social pressures make these communities more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions and lack access to care.

The prescription drug market has been manipulated and exploited by pharmaceutical companies to boost their profits at the expense of consumers because the federal government has allowed them to. The opportunity we have now is to take meaningful action to lower drug prices for the American people. In a recent survey of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, 93 percent of those polled said that they would support giving the government the power to negotiate directly with drug companies to lower drug costs. Prescription drug reform has bipartisan support across the country because the pain of high drug prices is felt whether you live in a Red state or Blue state.

We support the inclusion of prescription drug reform measures in the American Families Plan proposal, specifically Medicare prescription drug negotiation, as well as the other effective and comprehensive reforms, including but not limited to those in H.R. 3. This problem requires a multifaceted solution and the time to finally rein in the endless drug price hikes, high list prices, and out of pocket costs is now. We look forward to working with you to give the American people prescription drug relief.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress

/s/

NIKEMA WILLIAMS  
Member of Congress

/s/

CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress

/s/

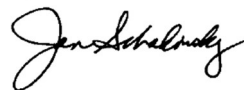
CHRIS PAPPAS  
Member of Congress

/s/

BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

/s/

ANGIE CRAIG  
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress

/s/

ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER  
Member of Congress

/s/

ANN KIRKPATRICK  
Member of Congress

/s/

MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress

/s/

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress

/s/

JOHN P. SARBANES  
Member of Congress

/s/

MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress

/s/

JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress

/s/

STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

/s/

DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress

/s/

KATIE PORTER  
Member of Congress

/s/

PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress

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RO KHANNA  
Member of Congress

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COLIN ALLRED  
Member of Congress

/s/

PETER DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress